

Message Text

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S E C R E T BONN 05931

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FOR THE SECRETARY, DEPUTY SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, US, GW, OVIP (GENSCHER, HANS DIETRICH)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S TOPICS OF INTEREST

REF: BONN 5835

1. A CLOSE AIDE OF MINISTER GENSCHER HAS TOLD US THAT
THE MINISTER HOPES TO CONCENTRATE, ABOVE ALL, ON THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY:

-- FIRST OF ALL, ON THE MATTER THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER CAME HERE TO DISCUSS.

-- SECOND, BUT WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS URGENT STRESS,
THE NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION.

-- THIRD, AFRICA - INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE
HORN.

-- FOURTH, THE MIDDLE EAST.

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2. ON THE FIRST TOPIC, GENSCHER'S AIDE SAID THE REASON
THE CHANCELLOR HAD ADVANCED THE MINISTER'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON WAS TO AVOID HAVING HIM ARRIVE THERE ON THE
DAY A US DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED, AS WELL AS IN ORDER
TO ENABLE THE CHANCELLOR TO HAVE A FULLER UNDER-
STANDING OF US THINKING IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DEAL
HERE WITH THE DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS WHICH BOTH THE

CHANCELLOR AND THE MINISTER EXPECT TO BE SEVERE. THE AIDE SAID THAT, IF ALLIANCE QUESTIONS WERE GIVEN AS THE BASIS FOR THE DECISION, THE CHANCELLOR WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE DOMESTICALLY BUT TO INDICATE WHAT THE GERMAN POSITION HAD BEEN (DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES THIS WOULD PROVOKE WITH THE LEFT WING).

3. THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO SPECIAL CONCERNS, AS THE AIDE RELATED IT:

(A) GENSCHER WILL WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHETHER THE US DECISION IS DEFINITIVE OR WHETHER THE QUESTION MIGHT BE REOPENED AT SOME LATER DATE.

(B) GENSCHER WILL NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS DECISION FITS INTO OVERALL US STRATEGIC THINKING AND WHETHER THERE WAS NOT, INDEED, ANY QUID PRO QUO FROM THE SOVIETS.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO THE LATTER POINT, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT BREZHNEV WILL COME TO THE FRG MAY 4 TO 6. THE GERMANS WONDER WHETHER HIS ACCEPTANCE (MARCH 31) OF THE FRG INVITATION WAS INFLUENCED BY ANY FOREKNOWLEDGE HE MAY HAVE HAD OF US THINKING ON THE ER/RB WEAPON.

5. GENSCHER IS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY STATE SECRETARY
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VAN WELL, PLANNING CHIEF KINDEL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAUTENSCHLAGER (RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS), AND PERHAPS NATO DESK OFFICER DANNENBRING AS NOTETAKER.
STOESSEL

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